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BOOK REVIEW

Steven M. Greer, MD. *Hidden Truth—Forbidden Knowledge*. Crozet, Va.: Crossing Point, 2006. 325 pp.

—. *Contact: Countdown to Transformation—The CSETI Experience, 1992–2009*. Crozet, Va.: Crossing Point, 2009. 455 pp. + CD.

Reviewed by Matthew Fike, PhD

Two of Dr. Steven M. Greer's four books—*Extraterrestrial Contact: The Evidence and Implications* (1999) and *Disclosure: Military and Government Witnesses Reveal the Greatest Secrets in Modern History* (2001)—are excellent sources of witnesses' testimony as well as the author's explanatory essays on extraterrestrial contact. His other two books are under consideration here: *Hidden Truth—Forbidden Knowledge*, a memoir of Greer's involvement with ETs; and *Contact: Countdown to Transformation—The CSETI Experience, 1992–2009*, an account of his organization, the Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence. As oral histories, both texts make up in immediacy what they lack in polish and editorial accuracy; and *Hidden Truth* becomes much more credible when read in tandem with *Contact*. Each book informs and bolsters the other. For example, the first third of *Contact* repeats many of the events recounted in *Hidden Truth*; but now the contact stories are told by multiple persons, whose perspectives lend an air of objectivity that the memoir sometimes lacks. “I can confirm the whole thing,” says one CSETI participant.

Although Greer did not use notes or text during forty-five hours of presentations, *Hidden Truth* reads well and is coherently organized into three partially overlapping, albeit unmarked, sections: his childhood and adult life; his efforts to get information about UFOs disclosed to the public (1990–2006); and a peaceful concluding section in which he offers futurist speculation (largely based on his own visionary experiences) and a fairly comprehensive cosmology. Most likely, it was the third section that inspired astronaut Brian O’Leary’s comment in the foreword: “This book could be the most important you will read. It is not only full of transcendent truths, it is a call to action to shift the paradigm from terrestrial tyranny to peaceful, sustainable and just cosmic community.” Since O’Leary is probably right about the book’s importance, it is a pity that the good doctor did not take greater care to follow the rules of argumentation. He frequently conflates categories: belief becomes claim, which becomes fact, which becomes truth, which the reader must believe because Greer has spoken. Therefore, the book is intellectually suspicious in more than a few cases, though on the whole it is enjoyable and convincing. *Hidden Truth* also has many lower-order errors; and *Contact*, though proofread and edited by a CSETI team member, is still marred by silly errors like putting the note numbers before the periods. The greater flaw, however, lies not in editorial inaccuracy but in

the poor choice of Wikipedia as the source for many of *Contact's* footnotes. Even worse, when an ET craft is said to be shaped like a Hershey's Kiss, the note providing a URL for Hershey's Kisses, though not from Wikipedia, veers into risible triviality.

Greer is the former chairman of an emergency room in Boone, North Carolina, a highly lucrative position that he resigned to devote himself full-time to the disclosure of ETs' presence on Earth. He saw his first UFO in 1965, learned meditation on his own, practiced OBE as a teenager, experienced Cosmic Consciousness at seventeen when he had a profound NDE, traveled out into space on extraterrestrial vehicles, established protocols for vectoring spacecraft to a specific location, founded CSETI to promote peaceful encounters with ETs, was attacked on various occasions by electromagnetic weapons (once while driving near The Monroe Institute®), lost his best friend and closest associate (Shari Adamiak) to breast cancer that resulted from one such attack, yet still thinks of himself as "just a country doctor." Leonard McCoy's brand of self-deprecation is a nice touch and appropriately balances extraordinary events such as Greer's transfiguration-like encounter with a group of ET elders in chapter 22 of *Hidden Truth*. His statement to his CSETI group at the end of this experience, as recorded in *Contact*, sounds pretentious by comparison: "Either you have seen or you have not seen, and you have understood or you have not understood." Still, as one of the greatest living psychics, as proficient in ET communication as Robert Monroe was in OBE, the author deserves readers' admiration for his ground-breaking work.

Greer's international efforts to assemble evidence and the testimony of over 400 military, governmental, and corporate witnesses from the 1940s through the 1990s culminated in a huge media event at the National Press Club on May 9, 2001. Much of the testimony is available on the Internet and on CDs available at *The Disclosure Project* Web site: Greer views the "big media" as corrupt because they have been "integrated into the corporate trans-national shadow entity that maintains secrecy." Along the way to disclosure, the author becomes a space-age Forrest Gump, who encounters legislators, government officials, military officers, spooks, and celebrities (the vignettes with Burl Ives and Mrs. Boutros-Ghali are among the doctor's most memorable recollections). Most of the public figures whom Greer encounters want full disclosure; but no one (sadly, not even President Clinton) has been willing to step up. Today, with the main disclosure event behind him, Greer balances his efforts between CSETI and his two energy-research organizations—Advanced Energy Research Corporation and The Orion Project—whose purpose is to develop the ET-inspired free energy and anti-gravity systems that he believes will wean the world off fossil fuels.

Like Greer's statements during the disclosure event, both books stress the major theme that the ETs who are visiting Earth are all peaceful. Greer's argument, which is scattered in pieces across many pages, deserves a concise reconstruction. A species ideally develops in the following way, with causal connections between one stage and the next: realization that conscious beings are all part of the One Mind, peaceful coexistence, enlightenment, discovery

of the physics of nonlocality (how to travel beyond what he elegantly calls the “crossing point of light”), and finally space travel to places like Earth. Peace precedes and enables the discovery of travel in the nonlocal universe; and besides, ET-level technology sans spiritual refinement leads to self-destruction; therefore, the ET species that are visiting Earth must necessarily be peaceful. The argument is plausible, and readers will hope that Greer’s conclusion about the beings he has met characterizes those he has not.

In an attempt to further our own species’ maturation, Greer outlines numerous spiritual and cosmological principles. A general cosmology appears in his essays “Extraterrestrials and the New Cosmology” and “The Crossing Point” in his book *Extraterrestrial Contact: The Evidence and Implications* (this book, along with *Disclosure: Military and Government Witnesses Reveal the Greatest Secrets in Modern History*, provides much of the evidence that is lacking in *Hidden Truth*). In these two essays, Greer explains the universe in roughly the same terms that Thomas Campbell develops at great length in the *Big TOE* trilogy (reviewed in the summer/fall 2009 *TMI Focus*). [See: *Topics/Reviews/Book Reviews*] To Greer’s credit, however, his work was published first. As he asserts in *Hidden Truth*, “There is one conscious mind, and we are It,” and because of “the non-local integration of energy, matter, space, time and dimensions via mind-stuff, every point in space and time has access to every other point in space and time.” Remote healing, telepathy, and remote viewing are possible because “consciousness is a singularity.” And as Monroe eventually realized, OBE does not have to be a separation from the physical body: because the universe is already folded within, one is already everywhere. Of course, the use of Hemi-Sync® to achieve high levels of consciousness, though not mentioned, makes one likelier to achieve ET contact (one remembers here that “Pleiadian Conversations,” chapter 8 in Ken Eagle Feather’s *Traveling with Power*, includes a UFO encounter near TMI).

Whereas Greer’s analysis of psi is sure-footed, *Hidden Truth* is marred by unsubstantiated claims about a variety of topics. For example, he mentions avatars throughout, claiming that one appeared in the 1800s and set humanity on a new 500,000-year cycle. Who was this higher being? Greer does not and cannot say, though he claims to have encountered the twin avatars for our age in a state of expanded awareness. *Contact* does a little better in describing “the Ancient One, an over-soul avatar for the next 500,000 years for every planet in the Cosmos” and “the Celestial and God-Conscious Being, the Avatar or Godhead state.” Without the support of the later book, however, many claims in *Hidden Truth* fall flat because they conflate belief, claim, fact, and truth. As in the following examples, subjective claims trump reliable information: ETs “have been observing our development for maybe thousands and perhaps millions” of years; they “assisted and augmented our species”; ET spaceships are conscious biomachines; the shadow government’s objective is to kill six billion people; “a trans-national fascist-oriented group” was “behind the emergence of Hitler”; the technology exists to locate Osama bin Laden; and we owe computer chips, lasers, night vision, and bulletproof vests to ET technology. Greer similarly produces no evidence of free energy devices, but the

projections that he bases on them place him on firmer ground. Free energy would lift the masses out of poverty, result in the sharing and decentralizing of political power, eliminate the need for fossil fuels, and promote global integration. One can only hope that he is right. One can be fairly certain that he is not right when he undiplomatically insists in *Contact*, “Certainly, most of what is taught in history, organized religion, science, archeology and theology is wrong.” As a fallacy of overgeneralization, the statement constitutes boldfaced intellectual hubris and casts a shadow of doubt over more credible statements.

One further omission is profoundly disappointing. Though a medical doctor and an expert in anatomy, Greer fails in *Hidden Truth* to describe the ETs’ physical appearances sufficiently. He does affirm “a universal form of intelligent species”—“an upright being with a head, bimorphism with two arms and two legs”—because of “non-local morphogenic propagation” (nature’s way of replicating successful patterns). One ET is three feet tall with deer-like eyes, and a female ET dubbed “Kindness” is described in some detail. But when he writes elsewhere, “I saw in my minds’-eye [sic] the occupants of the ship,” the reader wants to know exactly what kind of beings he saw. This lack of detail characterizes Greer’s approach: the book could have been much more effectively descriptive. Fortunately, *Contact* largely makes up for this deficiency. There he writes that ET persons, who range from two and a half to eighteen feet in height, have evolved from a variety of life forms like insects, marine mammals, and birds. Some look just like us, such as a female ET who at five feet eight “had a perfect Grace Kelly profile.” One ET has a large head shaped like a light bulb. Another has a blue face. Other “little beings . . . looked like the cartoon character Casper the Ghost.” And Kindness receives special description. This “senior extraterrestrial elder” with a blue-white skin “had a perfectly rounded head and was hairless with almond-shaped eyes, and diminutive nose and mouth. I do not recall any ear flaps, just openings on the side of the head. She was wearing a one-piece silvery suit.” Apart from physical characteristics, many of the ETs are described as emotional, loving, highly intelligent, playful, humorous, or as having some combination of these characteristics. This fuller set of descriptions would seem sufficient if *Contact* had not mentioned and then failed to describe “slide shows” depicting ET faces, landscapes from different planets, and a variety of spacecraft. The fact that Greer views distinctions such as Grays versus Reptilians to be interplanetary racism is a pretty slender excuse for not anticipating readers’ interest and fleshing out the two books’ descriptions of our ET visitors.

The fact that CSETI, according to *Contact*, has encountered twenty-seven different species of ETs not only reflects the dearth of descriptive detail but also bears out Greer’s point that the group has found what he calls the Rosetta stone of ET contact—namely, the One Mind, Cosmic Consciousness. “There is only one conscious mind, and therefore in reality everything is consciousness resonating as that thing.” Coherent Thought Sequencing (“a deep state of consciousness centered in non-locality, having very strong, clear and directed thought with a clear intent and will”) acts as a homing beacon not just for ETs but also for a variety of other intelligent beings. Greer writes, “I saw a mix of ETs, Native Americans, devas, ghosts, and

other entities.” “The layers of intelligence and events that take place range from human activity to extraterrestrial, astral, ancestral, Native American, and angelic/celestial/avatar/God-head presence.” Regarding the human presence, he specifically mentions the interest of Gandhi, the presence of Jesus, visitation by humans from Earth’s future, and communication with his late friend Shari (“a celestial bridge builder” who works with Ambassador Kindness).

Whereas *Hidden Truth* is Greer’s personal story, *Contact* is the account of CSETI’s encounters with ETs told from multiple perspectives. The reader may groan out loud upon first seeing the year-by-year chapter organization and the person-by-person, journal-like format. These features, however, turn out to be strengths. *Contact* is actually a very good and very important book for a variety of reasons. It begins with the premise that there is only One Mind in the universe and therefore only One People (in fact, CSETI’s motto is “One Universe, One People”). It states the ETs’ purpose: to promote peace on Earth and to “build a bridge between humanity and other peaceful civilizations.” It articulates CSETI’s purpose: “to train ordinary people to make open contact with Visitors from other star systems,” “to contact these visitors with the specific purpose of peaceful, diplomatic and open communication,” and to provide a bridge between the past and the next 500,000 years. And it states humanity’s goal: to achieve Cosmic Consciousness, which will bring about peace and enlightenment here on Earth. CSETI participants are thus “midwives,” “bridge’ people,” and “interplanetary ambassadors.” The organization’s next step will be open contact with ETs in an unidentified member of the G7 industrialized nations that has requested it, which Greer believes will lead to official disclosure of the ET presence and the development of new energy technologies.

Contact also has two things that help the accounts move along at a good clip: villains and an overall shape. The bad guys are the same as in *Hidden Truth*: the shadow government, the military, and big media. Greer’s CSETI group is subjected to psychological warfare, experiences disruptive tactics in the field, and even sustains a shot across its proverbial bow from a secret scalar weapon fired from an aircraft. “Every expedition since 1992 has been accompanied by military reconnaissance and military people on the ground nearby trying to suppress the events.” But the book is about more than cat-and-mouse games with the Air Force and the kind of strange lights, sounds, and encounters in remote areas at night that are featured on the accompanying CD. It conveys an emerging awareness of CSETI’s role as a catalyst of Earth’s coming transformation to world peace and cosmic community, and it culminates in Greer’s acting as a translator for lengthy transmissions from a cosmic high council somewhere beyond Orion. “He . . . was serving as the step-down transformer from the Universal Being through the Celestials and the ETs—then through him—to all of us, to complete the cycle,” according to one of the participants. This transcript concludes the book’s main body, and an appendix on levels of cosmology caps off the volume.

Although The Monroe Institute is not mentioned in *Contact*, various connections are possible. Greer realizes “the power of the group consciousness,” much as group energy enhances

program participants' experiences at the Institute. Some TMI participants experience Focus 35, The Gathering; and Greer refers to the presence of ETs, avatars, and celestial figures as "The Great Gathering." CSETI participation requires the kind of high-level psychic functioning practiced at the Institute, particularly astral vision, bilocation, and remote viewing (though Greer's brand of RV, which is front-loaded and lacks protocols, would make Joe McMoneagle cringe). But perhaps the greatest similarity to TMI lies in a statement that is highly reminiscent of Monroe's standard advice: "The CSETI philosophy is to give people the tools, articulate the techniques, enhance understanding and encourage individual exploration."

Despite its shortcomings, *Hidden Truth* is highly engaging and makes a good case for ET presence because of the immediate nature of Greer's personal experiences, the fact that the reported sightings are often by groups of persons, a chapter of excerpts from witnesses' testimony, and the further elaboration found in *Contact* and his other books. As we count down to transformation, Greer is hopeful of human improvability; and he reminds us that "everyone has a role to play in this whole cosmic drama." The implications of his statement are sure to inspire plenty of self-examination.

[Matthew Fike is an associate professor of English at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC]

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